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POLAND'S SECURITY DECREE BECOMES LAW

EFFECTIVE 12 NOVEMBER -- Zycie Warszawy, No 316, 16 Nov 49

The decree concerning security measures to protect state and official information in Poland became a law on 12 November.

This decree was issued to prevent the transmission of information to unauthorized persons which might affect the national security or be harmful to Poland economically or politically.

The decree defines state and official information as follows:

State information -- Data, documents, or other objects which because of their importance to national defense, national security, or economic or political value to Poland or any friendly nation should be accessible only to authorized persons;

Official information -- Documents or other objects accessible to authorized persons in the performance of their duties.

The timeliness of this decree is exemplified by the case of Rajk who was tried for transmitting political and economic information to imperialist countries. Another example is that of the "Polimex" firm in Poland, whose officials divulged confidential economic information to foreign powers. Still another example is the military trial of Petrovic in Katowice, a representative of the Yugoslavian Ministry of Communication (Transportation) during which it was disclosed that several officials of the Kosciuszko Metallurgical Plant participated in espionage activities.

All these and many other trials clearly indicate that foreign powers are trying to secure secret political and economic data.

Hitherto in Poland, people discussed jobs privately and publicly without realizing that they might be divulging information desired by Poland's

- 1 -

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enemies to unauthorized persons. Divulging secrets to foreign powers is just as dangerous as open acts of sabotage. Seemingly unimportant information may be of great value to Poland's enemies.

ATTACKS SUBVERSIVE ELEMENTS -- Trybuna Ludu, No 317, 17 Nov 49

At the third plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the United Polish Workers' Party, the need for increased security measures in respect to the country's political and economic activities was stressed.

President Bierut outlined ways to eliminate class enemies and subversive elements such as the Lechowicz-Jaroszewicz group recently exposed. Experience has shown that any ideological deviation invites penetration of enemy agents and stimulates their activities. The victory gained over the rightist-nationalist faction during the last year cannot be considered complete; the fight must continue and strict controls must be maintained at every organizational level. The masses must take part in party activities and be constantly on the alert against any attempt to sabotage the national economy.

YUGOSLAV SPY GET 10 YEARS' IMPRISONMENT -- Rzeczpospolita, No 310, 10 Nov 49

On 9 November, the military court in Katowice published the decision of the court sentencing M. Petrovic, a representative of the Yugoslav Ministry of Communications in Poland, to 10 years' imprisonment for espionage and for distributing illegal propaganda bulletins. Petrovic confessed that he had organized a spy ring in the Chorzow and Sosnowiec areas. The Polish members of the organization, which was supported by Anglo-American backers, included: Erik Dyga, Stefan Wicera, Bronislaw Giertowski, Daria Polonska, Antonina Zementowska, and others.

SECURITY REGULATIONS TIGHTENED -- Rzeczpospolita, No 310, 10 Nov 49

Idle talk leads to the revelation of important secret information. Questions of an apparently innocent nature concerning wages, production, the courts, exports to the USSR, the political attitude of workers, etc., induce irresponsible persons to boast of their knowledge of political and economic conditions by freely discussing them with strangers, who might be agents in the service of enemy intelligence. The trial of M. Petrovic, representative of the Yugoslav Ministry of Communications, recently held in Katowice, proves this. Many people are still insufficiently aware of the subversive work conducted by foreign agents. The US has recently assigned 10 million dollars for intelligence and subversive activities in Eastern Europe, to be directed from a central office in Belgrade. It is expected that these activities will shortly be intensified and the public in general must be on the alert and scrupulously guard the national security.

POLAND EJECTS INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS -- Morgon Tidningen, No 315, 20 Nov 49

The Swiss radio announced on 19 November 1949 that Polish authorities have instructed the Swiss director of the International Red Cross in Poland to leave that country before the end of November. The broadcast reported further that the offices of the Red Cross are to be closed on 22 November 1949, as Poland considers the work of the organization concluded. The Polish government has chosen to ignore a request for reconsideration of its order to the Red Cross. According to the Red Cross, a great amount of work remains to be done, particularly in connection with the thousands of German prisoners still in Poland.

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- 2 -

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